¶ Proclamation set furth by the kynges Maieſtie, for the abſtinence from fleſhe, in the time of Lent, and other daies prohibited, the .xiii. daie of Februarie, in the ſeuenth yere of his Maiesties moſt proſperous Reigne.

WHereas in the Parliament holden at Weſtminſter the ſeconde yere of the kinges maieſties reigne, one acte, emōg̃ diuers others, was made, that no perſon, or perſones ſhould after a certeine time willingly, & wittingly eate any kinde of fleſhe vpon any Fridaie, Saterdaie, any daie within the time of Lent, nor at any ſuche other daie, as was at that time, or ſhould be at any time afterwardes, comonly accepted, and reputed as a fiſhe daie within this realme of Englād, vnder diuers and great penalties, as in the ſaid act more largely dooeth appere. Foraſmuche as the ſaied acte founded vpon ſondrie and holſome conſiderations conteined in the ſame, hathe ſithen been by diuers and many fearleſſe ſubiectes, moſt diſobediently and ſtubbernely, infrūged, broken and neglected, to the greate cōtempt of his maieſties lawes, & the notable offence alſo of almightie god, who hath commaunded princes ordinances, to be obſerued, not only for feare of their indignation, but alſo for cōſcience ſake. His maieſtie hauyng due conſideration of the great ſcarcetie of victual, & ſpecially of fleſhe, that is growen within this realme, & that by thabſtinence of eatyng of fleſh in times prohibited, muche fleſh is bred & encreaſed, to the continuall & more plentiful ſuſtenaunce of his ſubiectes, moſt ſtreightly chargeth and commaundeth, that from and after the makyng of this his highneſſe preſent Proclamation, and publiſhyng of the ſame, no manner of perſone, or perſones, dwellyng, inhabityng, reſiaunt, or abidyng, within this his realme of Englande, or any other his Dominions, or territories, hauyng no licence of his highneſſe to eate fleſhe in the times prohibited by the ſaied acte, ne beyng prouided, foꝛpriſed, or excepted by the ſaied acte, doo willingly, or wittyngly, eate any maner of fleſhe in the times of Lent, or in, or vpon any other daies prohibited by the ſaied acte, contrarie to the effect, purporte, and tenour of the ſame, vpon the peines, and penalties conteined in the ſaied Eſtatute, and as thei wil beſides that, auoide his highneſſe indignation, and diſpleaſure.

And that no maner of perſone, or perſones, kepyng, or that ſhal kepe, any tauerne, inne, hoſtrie, alehouſes, victuallyng houſe, common, or vſual table, for any geſtes, within his ſaide Realme, or dominions, from, and after the makyng of this his highnes proclamation, vtter any fleſhe in any kinde of maner, in their houſes, or elſ where, in any the times prohibited by the ſaied acte, or ſtatute, to be eaten by any perſone, not licenced or prouided for, as is aforeſaied, vpon the ſelfe ſame penalties, as againſt the eaters therof, in the ſaid acte is prouided.

And that no Butcher, ne other perſone, after the makyng of this proclamation (except he ſhalbe ſpecially licenced by his highneſſe, vnder the great ſeale of Englande) ſhal ſel any fleſhe, beyng dead, within his ſaied Realme, or Dominions, to be eaten in, or vpon, any the daies, or times prohibited by the ſaied acte, vpon iii peine, and peines, as is before laſt expreſſed, and limited.

And for the better example to be geuen by theim whiche haue any licence, his maieſties pleaſure is, that no maner of perſone, or perſones, hauyng any licence by his maieſties lettres patentes, or priuileged by the ſaied eſtatute to eate fleſhe, do in any wiſe eate the ſame fleſhe, vpon any daies prohibited, in any open place of his, or their houſe, or in any ſuche aſſemblie, as thei vſe on other daies accuſtomed, for eatyng of fleſhe, but that he and thei hauyng licence, vſe the ſame ſecretly, and modeſtly.

And that aſwel the Maior of London for the time beyng, as all Juſtices of peace, & all other Maiors, Sherifes, Bailefes, conſtables, and hed Officers, of al and euery, citie, countie, borough, Toune, and Village, within this his realme of Englād, and all other his highneſſe dominiōs, and territories as thei wil auoide his highneſſe diſpleaſure, and indignation, & wil further aunſwer at their peril, do from time to time after the makyng of this his highneſſe proclamation, within their rules, iuriſdictions, authorities, precinctes, &

circuites, truely, and diligently, with all speede from time to time, searche and trie out, al maner thoffen
ces, contemptes, and inobediences aforesaide, and for the due execution of the aforesaied Estatute, and the
tenour of this proclamation, do deuise some weekely searche, so as by their diligence, the Lawe maie haue
some fruict, and profite, as it is very nedeful: & vpon knowlege, and due profe therof made, that thei and e-
uerie of theim furthwith commit al and euery suche offendour and offendours, to emprisonment, there safe,
and surely to be kepte, & remaine, & farther to be punished, accordyng vnto the penalties by degrees, conte-
ned in the foresaied act, and in case any be founde vpon thesaied punishementes, not amended, then suche to
bee as notable and incorrigible persones, certified to his maiestie, or his counsail, that some greuous open
punishment of suche, maie be example to al others.

And that al and euerie his louyng and true subiectes, be from time to time, aidyng, helpyng, and assist-
yng to all and euerie suche Maior and Maiors, Justices, and other officers aforesaied, in the doyng, and
executyng of theffect and purport of this his highnesse proclamation, as thei wil aunswere to his Maiestie
vpon their vttermost peril, and as thei wil auoide his highnesse greuous indignation, and displeasure.
For certeinly, suche is the kinges determinate purpose, to haue this throughly executed.

God saue the kyng.

RICHARDVS GRAF-
tonus, Typographus Regius excudebat.
Anno Domini. 1552.
Cum Priuilegio ad Imprimen-
dum solum.